

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 HAVANA 02136 241959Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
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AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
AMEMBASSY QUITO  
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L HAVANA 2136

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PDEV XM PARM CU  
SUBJ: CUBAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON LATIN AMERICA

1. USINT OFFICER ENGAGED IN CONVERSATION AT RECEPTION, JULY 20, WITH LUIS SUAREZ, FUNCTIONARY OF AMERICAS DEPARTMENT OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF CUBAN COMMUNIST PARTY WHO HANDLES COLUMBIA AND APPARENTLY ECUADOR. (FYI CUBANS HAVE BEEN UNWILLING THUS FAR TO GRANT US APPOINTMENTS WITH ANY CNETRAL COMMITTEE STAFF PERSONNEL. END FYI.) SUAREZ TOOK EXTREMELY HARD-LINE ON US POLICY IN LATIN AMERICA, AND ONLY GURDGINGLY QUALIFIED US OPENINGOF INTERESTS SECTION, CANAL TREATIES, AND US STATEMENTS ON DOMINICIAN ELECTIONS AS "REALISTIC" STEPS WITHIN CONTEXT OF UNDESIRABLE AND "CONTRA-DICTORY" OVERALL POLICY. HE ADDED FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES.

2. COLOMBIA - SUAREZ, ECHOING FIDEL CASTRO (SEE HAVANA 1985), SAID THAT TURBAY ELECTION IS POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT. HE STATED  
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 HAVANA 02136 241959Z

THAT CUBAN RELATIONS WITH COLOMBIA ARE GOOD AND THAT INVITA-TION IS ALWAYS OPEN FOR COOMBIAN PRESIDENT TO COME TO HAVANA. SUAREZ MADE REMARKS WHICH SUGGESTED THAT HE FELT US MAY HAVE MIXED FEELINGS REGARDING TURBAY ELECTION.

3. ECUADOR - SUAREZ SAID THAT FUTURE OF ECUADORIAN RELATIONS WITH CUBA IS HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON ELECTIONS AND FATE OF

ROLDAS. HE SAID THAT "SOME PEOPLE" BELIEVE THAT, IF ROLDAS IS ELECTED, ECUADORIAN MILITARY BACKED BY US WILL ORGANIZE A COUP TO PREVENT HIM FROM TAKING OFFICE. SUAREZ ALSO STATED THAT "SOME PEOPLE" BELIEVE THAT ECUADORIAN OIL PRODUCTION IS ARTIFICIALLY BEING HELD DOWN AT US OIL COMPANIES' BEHEST.

4. PERU - SUAREZ SAID IMF, UNDER US PRESSURE, IS PLACING UNBEARABLE PRESSURE ON GOVERNMENT, WHILE IN NEIGHBORING CHILE, US IS DOING NOTHING TO OVERTHROW PINOCHET. US-CHILEAN ARGUMENT OVER LETELIER AFFAIR IS SIMPLY "EXOTIC EPISODE", WHICH DOES NOT UNDERCUT BASIC US BACKING OF PINOCHET.

5. BELIZE - SUAREZ SAID DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CUBAN MILITARY POLICY IN AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA IS ONLY THAT, IN LATTER REGION, NO REQUESTS FOR MILITARY SUPPORT HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENTS. IT IS STILL PREMATURE TO SPECULATE WHETHER CUBAN MILITARY HELP WOULD BE GIVEN TO AN INDEPENDENT BELIZE, SUAREZ SAID.

6. PUERTO RICA - SUAREZ REPEATED CASTRO'S ASSERTIONS THAT CUBA WOULD ALWAYS SUPPORT PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE. HE CONDEMNED TERRORIST ACTIVITY, AND SAID CUBAN SUPPORT FOR A PUERTO RICAN REFERENDUM WOULD DEPEND ON HOW REFERENDUM ORGANIZED.

7. TREATY OF TLATELOLCO - CUBA CANNOT AGREE TO SIGN TLATELOLCO  
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PAGE 03 HAVANA 02136 241959Z

UNTIL US DROPS EMBARGO AND AGREES TO CEASE PRODUCTION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. (COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST TIME WE HAVE EVER HEAD LATTER CONDITION ATTACHED. USUALLY, TERMINATION OF EMBARGO AND US EVACUATION OF GUANTANAMO ARE CONDITIONS CITED.)

8. COMMENT: WHILE SUAREZ' CHIEF MANUEL PINEIRO (BARBA ROJA) IS NOT PRE-REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST, SUAREZ' VINTAGE CUBAN YANKEE-BAITING DID CARRY VENEER OF SOVIET-STYLE REHETORIC (NEED FOR PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE, PRIORITY OF ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT). WHILE SUAREZ PAID LIP SERVICE TO DESIRABILITY OF US-CUBAN NORMALIZATION, IT WAS CLEAR THAT HIS EXPECTATIONS FOR FUTURE IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS ARE MINIMAL. WE WONDER WHETHER HIS ATTITUDES ARE IDIOSYNCRATIC OR ARE TYPICAL OF AMERICAS DEPARTMENT OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE (CC). WE ALSO WONDER WHETHER SIMILAR ATTITUDES PREVAIL IN GENERAL FOREIGN RELATIONS DEPARTMENT OF CC WHICH, UNLIKE AMERICAS DEPARTMENT, IS UNDER DOMINATION OF OLD-LINE MOSCOW COMMUNISTS SUCH AS LIONEL SOTO AND SECRETARIAT MEMBER RAUL VALDES VIVO.  
LANE

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014